

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015130

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TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: EAID, CG, US

SUBJECT: 10 MILLION DOLLARS SSA LOAN

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LESLIE GELB ARTICLE IN JANUARY 21
NYTIMES ENTITLED, "DECISION NEAR ON DISPUTED AID TO
ZAIRE": QTE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED TO
DECIDE IN A FEW DAYS WHETHER TO GO AHEAD DESPITE OBJECTIONS
FROM KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WITH AN EMERGENCY LOAN OF
10 MILLION DOLLARS TO ZAIRE, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS.

THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE AID
WOULD ALLOW ZAIRE TO RELEASE A COMPARABLE AMOUNT OF
FUNDS TO ITS ALLIES FIGHTING IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR.
THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS BEEN FUNNELING
COVERT MILITARY AID AND CASH THROUGH ZAIRE TO THE TWO
WESTERN-SUPPORTED ANGOLAN LIBERATION GROUPS FIGHTING THE
GROUP SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIET UNION.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS INFORMED SEVERAL COMMITTEE
CHAIRMEN LAST NIGHT THE 'INTENTION OF SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY A. KISSINGER TO GIVE THE AID IMMEDIATELY. THE
CHAIRMEN OBJECTED, AND HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 015130

SUSPENDED THE ORDER TO EXECUTE THE LOAN.

ONE OFFICIAL SAID: "WE HAVE NOT GONE AHEAD--YET; WE'RE TRYING TO SEE IF WE CAN MEET CONGRESSIONAL OBJECTIONS."

OFFICIALS OF THE AFRICA BUREAU OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARGUE THAT THE 10 MILLION DOLLARS IN INDUSTRIAL CREDITS IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO MEET THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ZAIRE.

OTHER OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT ZAIRE THAN ABOUT THE DANGER OF A NEW RUPTURE RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS IF THE WISHES OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ARE IGNORED.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS LEGALLY ENTITLED TO PROVIDE THE AID WITHOUT SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY, BUT CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS SAID THAT THEY WOULD REGARD THIS AS A BREACH OF A TWO-YEAR WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

CONGRESS HAS NOT PASSED A NEW FOREIGN-AID BILL THIS YEAR. IN THE ABSENCE OF NEW LEGISLATION, AID PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUED BY MEANS OF A RESOLUTION CONTINUING SPENDING AUTHORITY BASED ON LAST YEAR'S AID BILL.

OPERATING WITHIN THESE RESOLUTIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION CAN REDIRECT AID FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER OR INCREASE AID TO A COUNTRY WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. IT IS MERELY REQUIRED TO INFORM CONGRESS 15 DAYS BEFORE CARRYING OUT ITS DECISION.

UNDER AN ARRANGEMENT IN EFFECT FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, HOWEVER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS INVARIABLY BEEN RESPONSIVE TO OBJECTIONS BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, EITHER MODIFYING DECISIONS OR REVERSING THEM IN ACCORDING WITH THE WISHES OF THE CHAIRMEN.

SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE, DEMOCRAT OF HAWAII AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS, WAS INFORMED OF THE DECISION TO SEND THE AID YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. HE IMMEDIATELY REGISTERED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 015130

HIS OBJECTIONS WITH MR. KISSINGER.

IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW TODAY, MR. INOUE SAID HE HAD ASSUMED THAT THE AID HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN, BUT SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE RECONSIDERATION, GIVEN THE FACT THAT "THE ADMINISTRATION HAS HONORED THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP UNTIL NOW."

REPRESENTATIVE CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI, DEMOCRAT OF WISCONSIN, AND A KEY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID THAT HE MIGHT FAVOR CERTAIN KINDS OF AID TO ZAIRE IF THERE WERE ASSURANCES THAT THE AID WOULD NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FIND ITS WAY INTO ANGOLA.

HE ADDED: "BUT IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FOLLOW CONGRESSIONAL DESIRES ON THIS MATTER, WE WILL REWRITE THE LAW TO REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL" OF EVERY DECISION TO REDIRECT OR INCREASE AID.

REPRESENTATIVE OTTO E. PASSMAN, DEMOCRAT OF LOUISIANA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS SAID IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY THAT HE GAVE HIS APPROVAL TO THE AID YESTERDAY, "BUT I'M PROTESTING IT TODAY; I DON'T THINK THEY'VE JUSTIFIED IT."

MR. PASSMAN AND MR. INOUE OBJECTED TO A SIMILAR STATE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR ZAIRE IN OCTOBER. AT THIS TIME, MR. KISSINGER WAS SEEKING 22.7 MILLION DOLLARS IN LONG-TERM LOANS FOR ZAIRE BUT DID NOT GO AHEAD WITH THE LOAN BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL OBJECTIONS.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID R. OBEY, DEMOCRAT OF WISCONSIN, A MEMBER OF MR. PASSMAN'S SUBCOMMITTEE, CALLED YESTERDAY'S NOTIFICATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION "AN ATTEMPT TO SLIP ONE BY BEFORE CONGRESS HAS A CHANCE TO ACT."

"IT'S STUPID AND AN AFFRONT TO THE EXPRESS CONCERNS OF CONGRESS," HE SAID.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, ZAIRE HAS RECEIVED 15 MILLION DOLLARS
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PAGE 04 STATE 015130

IN GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED COMMERCIAL CREDITS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING 19 MILLION DOLLARS ADDITIONAL IN MILITARY CREDIT SALES, AND A 20 MILLION DOLLARS LOAN BY THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO OF ZAIRE HAS BEEN A SUPPORTER OF UNITED STATES POLICY IN AFRICA IN RECENT YEARS. ON MONDAY, FOLLOWING THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR AFRICAN UNITY, MR. MOBUTU CHARGED MOSCOW WITH "INTOLERABLE INTERVENTION" IN ANGOLA. SISCO

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